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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/762,775	FOX, JAMES	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angel R. Estrada	2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Application filed on January 21, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/21/04</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATIONS

- a) In page 12 line 2, change "fist panel 28" to --first panel 28--.
- b) In page 13 line 15, change "barbs 44 ant" to --barbs 44 and--.

IN THE CLAIMS

- a) In claim 10 line 18, change "fist" to --first--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 1-15 are:

Regarding claims 1-4, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations an electrical outlet safety cover having an a closure strap, the closure strap having a first end and a second end, the second end

of the closure strap having a connector for attaching second end the closure strap to the second panel, so that the electrical connectors on the sides of the electrical outlet are covered by the first panel and the second panel, and the first panel and the second panel are retained over the electrical connectors by the cooperation of the connecting section and the closure strap when the closure strap is attached to the second panel.

Regarding claims 5-9, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations an electrical outlet safety cover having a closure strap, the closure strap having a first end and a second end, the second end of the closure strap having a connector for attaching second end of the closure strap to the trailing edge of the second panel, so that the electrical connectors on the sides of the electrical outlet are covered by the first panel and the second panel, and the first panel and the second panel are retained over the electrical connectors by the cooperation of the connecting section and the closure strap when the closure strap is attached to the second panel.

Regarding claims 10-15, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations an method for covering the electrical connectors on an electrical outlet comprising: a closure strap, the closure strap having a first end and a second end, the second end of the closure strap having a connector for attaching second end of the closure strap to second panel; placing the first panel and the second panel over the electrical connectors on the sides of the electrical outlet are covered by the first panel and the second panel and so that the connecting section extends across the facade, and retaining the first panel and the second panel over the

electrical connectors by attaching the second end of the closure strap to the second panel.

These limitations are found in claims 1-15, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Busch, Jr (US 4,083,618), Lopez, Sr. et al (US 6,649,838), McIlvenna (US 6,669,492), Calderon (US 4,895,999), Ha (US 6,372,987), Blaess (US 6,545,218) and Kennedy (US 5,264,662) disclose an electrical outlet safety cover.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AE

September 30, 2004

 9/30/04
DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800